



Week Ending May 31

The notifications of infectious diseases in England and Wales during the week included: scarlet fever 915, whooping-cough 2,595, diphtheria 24, measles 6,616, acute pneumonia 380, acute poliomyelitis 44, dysentery 276, paratyphoid fever 45, and typhoid fever 3.

Medical News

Register of Medical Auxiliaries.—Free to medical practitioners, hospitals, local authorities, etc., is the 10th edition of the *Orthopists Section of the National Register of Medical Auxiliary Services*, just published by the Board of Registration (B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1). The register lists all those trained in the practice and principles of the development of binocular vision in squint, both alphabetically and geographically (including a brief overseas list), and is correct up to March 10 this year. The Board of Registration of Medical Auxiliaries was set up by the B.M.A. in 1933, and prepares registers also of chartered physiotherapists, biophysical assistants, radiographers, dispensing opticians, chiropodists, speech therapists, and dietitians.

Prison Medical Officers.—The annual conference of prison medical officers was held at the Home Office on May 23. At the morning session Dr. Desmond Curran and Dr. Maurice Partridge addressed the conference on psychopathic personality. The afternoon was devoted to a symposium on arson. The conference was opened by Mr. L. W. Fox, chairman of the Prison Commission.

Scottish Society of Anaesthetists.—The annual meeting was held at Dunblane Hotel Hydro, Perthshire, from April 25 till April 27, and 120 members, wives, and guests were present. The executive council for 1952-3 is: president, Dr. T. J. C. MacDonald (Aberdeen); vice-president, Dr. W. M. Shearer (Dundee); hon. secretary, Dr. R. N. Sinclair (Glasgow); and Drs. H. H. Pinkerton (Glasgow),

J. D. Robertson (Edinburgh), H. W. C. Griffiths (Edinburgh), A. G. Miller (Glasgow), A. Tindal (Glasgow), J. W. L. Bain (Aberdeen), and M. Muir (Dundee). The president's address dealt with the aliphatic halogens which have anaesthetic possibilities. Isopropyl chloride holds out some promise as an analgesic, and experimental work now proceeding indicates that fluorine compounds merit further study. Dr. M. H. Armstrong Davison, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was a guest of the society, and spoke on the historical background of the mandrake. The prize which the society is awarding annually for the best paper submitted from a registrar was won by Dr. J. P. Payne, Edinburgh.

Ulster Paediatric Society.—At the annual general meeting on April 2, Dr. Samuel Barron was elected chairman for the year 1952-3. The society also met at the Great Northern Hotel, Rostrevor, on May 23, when Mr. R. Groves, Headmaster of Campbell College, Belfast, spoke on "The Health of the Schoolboy." The annual dinner was held after the meeting.

Commemorating William Hunter.—Miss Dorothea Oliver, great-great-great-niece of William Hunter, on June 7 unveiled a plaque on the Lyric Theatre, Great Windmill Street, London, W.1, commemorating the site of his home and museum. Among those present were Dr. T. B. Jobson, a great-great-great-nephew, and his wife, Sir Arthur Porritt, president of the Hunterian Society, Mr. C. Robert Rudolf, honorary curator of the society, Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor, Dr. Basil Parsons-Smith, and Mr. Alec W. Badenoch. A preliminary announcement about the L.C.C.'s plans to erect the plaque appeared in the *Journal* of May 10 (p. 1020).

Victorian Pennies Appeal.—Sir Harold Kenyon, chairman of the Central Council for District Nursing in London, has appealed to the public to collect Queen Victorian pennies and halfpennies to aid district nursing funds. He said that approximately 457 million pennies and 360 million halfpennies were issued between 1860 and 1901—a potential £2,654,166 for district nursing funds.

Westminster Hospital.—With Dr. A. J. Shinnie in the chair, the Old Students' Dinner of the Westminster Hospital was held in Grosvenor House on June 6. Sir Adolphe Abrahams proposed the hospital and the medical school in a witty speech. The school had grown much since he joined the staff, recruited largely from the major teaching hospitals. Saying that the merits of the school could be assessed by its students, staff, and journal, he paid tribute to all three, mentioning in particular Sir Stanford Cade and Dr. Shinnie, who had recently received the Smith Award of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. In proposing the health of the guests, Sir Stanford Cade extolled the merits of one and all. There were three wards in the Westminster, he said, bearing the names of men now living—Lord Wigram, Sir Ernest Rock Carling, and Sir Bernard Docker. Among those present were Lord Wigram, Lord Nathan, Lord Kershaw, the Dean of Westminster, Canon Hildyard, the Mayor of Westminster, and the house governor, Mr. Charles Power. The reply was made by Mr. H. F. C. Crookshank, M.P., the principal guest of the evening, who said that the school stood for tradition, loyalty, and discipline, repeating Disraeli's dictum that a nation was governed either by force or by tradition. Dr. R. S. Taylor proposed the health of the chairman, and Dr. Shinnie replied.

Anglo-French Exchange Bursaries.—The following have been awarded bursaries for special studies in France, under the exchange scheme announced in the *Journal*, March 8 (p. 555): G. W. D. Henderson, consultant pathologist, deputy director Salisbury area pathological service; K. W. Lovel, medical registrar to the thoracic unit, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.1; F. W. Nash, at present research fellow in paediatrics, Philadelphia Children's Hospital, U.S.A.; J. F. Skone, Elliston Scholar, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (from October, 1951); E. A. Wright, junior lecturer in pathology at Guy's Hospital (appointed 1949).

NEW ISSUES

British Journal of Social Medicine.—The next issue of this journal (Vol. 6, No. 2) will be available in a week's time. The principal contents include:

STATISTICAL THEORY OF PROPHYLACTIC AND THERAPEUTIC TRIALS—PART I. LIMITATIONS OF THE UNIQUE NULL HYPOTHESIS. Lancelot Hogben and Raymond Wrighton.

THE HEALTH OF AN URBAN COMMUNITY. Lilli Stein and S. A. Sklaroff.

OBSERVATIONS ON ALL BIRTHS (23,970) IN BIRMINGHAM, 1947. VI. BIRTH WEIGHT, DURATION OF GESTATION, AND SURVIVAL RELATED TO SEX. J. R. Gibson and Thomas McKeown.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s., single copy 12s. 6d.

Medical and Biological Illustration.—The next issue of this journal (Vol. 2, No. 2) will be available in a week's time. The principal contents include:

THE NOTORNIS EXPEDITION, 1950.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE UNIVERSITIES. L. V. Chilton.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ANIMAL LABYRINTH. Oliver Gray.

HISTOLOGICAL DRAWINGS IN PEN AND INK. Alastair Graham.

LINE DRAWINGS FOR REPRODUCTION. Mary J. Waldron.

CONSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR LABORATORY WORK. S. W. Bowler.

RECORDING OF EXOPHTHALMOS AND ASSOCIATED EYE SIGNS. Peter Hansell.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING MODELS OF X-RAY EQUIPMENT. L. G. Idstrom.

THE MODEL II COLOUR TRANSLATING ULTRA-VIOLET MICROSCOPE. Edwin H. Land.

A CAMERA STAND FOR FILMING EYE OPERATIONS. H. M. Dekking.

Issued quarterly; annual subscription £2 2s., single copy 12s. 6d.

These journals are obtainable from the Publishing Manager, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

COMING EVENTS

Royal College of Nursing Conference.—The public health section of the College is arranging an open conference in the Cowdray Hall, Henrietta Place, London, W.1, at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday, July 5. The subject is to be the health and welfare of the family, and Professor A. Leslie Banks will speak. The fee for the conference (including tea) is 5s., and those wishing to attend should apply (enclosing remittance) to Miss D. Omond, Royal College of Nursing, Henrietta Place, W.1, as soon as possible.

Princess Tsahai Hospital.—A garden party and bazaar in aid of the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital Fund will be held in the grounds of the Holme, Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W.1, on Tuesday, July 8, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Donations will be acknowledged by the honorary treasurers of the Fund, Lord Horder and Lord Amulree, c/o Messrs. Gould and Prideaux, 88, Bishopsgate, E.C.2. Gifts for the stalls should be sent to the honorary secretary, 3, Charteris Road, Woodford Green, Essex. All doctors and their wives who can be present will be most welcome.

SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

A fee is charged or a ticket is required for attending lectures marked ●. Application should be made first to the institution concerned.

Monday, June 16

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, University New Buildings, Teviot Place. —At Surgery Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., "*The Surgery of Urinary Calculi*," by Professor J. Hellström (Stockholm). (See also June 17 and 18.)

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—4 p.m., "*Cutaneous Allergy*," by Dr. Stephen Gold.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—3.45 p.m., "*The Salivary Glands*," Arnott Demonstration by Mr. P. H. Mitchiner.

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, London, S.E.1.—5 p.m., "*Third Nerve Paralysis*," by Dr. T. H. Whittington.

Tuesday, June 17

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, University New Buildings, Teviot Place. —(1) At Surgery Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., "*The Surgery of Urinary Calculi*," by Professor J. Hellström (Stockholm). (See also June 16 and 18.) (2) At Anatomy Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., "*Antibiotic Synergism and Antagonism*," Macarthur Postgraduate Lecture by Dr. Ernest Jawetz (California).

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON, Pall Mall East, S.W.—5 p.m., "*Blood Changes in Industrial Disease*," Ernestine Henry Lecture by Dr. R. E. Lane.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Bolingbroke Hospital, Wandsworth Common, S.W., 8.30 p.m., "*The Diagnosis and Treatment of Paroxysmal Tachycardia*," by Dr. Courtenay Evans.

Wednesday, June 18

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY, University New Buildings, Teviot Place. —At Surgery Lecture Theatre, 5 p.m., "*The Surgery of Urinary Calculi*," by Professor J. Hellström (Stockholm). (See also June 16 and 17.)

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—11.45 a.m., medical clinical-pathological conference; 3 p.m., "*Phaeochromocytoma: Diagnosis and Treatment*," by Dr. Henry Aranow (Columbia University).

ROYAL EYE HOSPITAL, St. George's Circus, London, S.E.1.—5.30 p.m., "*Congenital Fundus Abnormalities*," by Mr. R. P. Crick.

Thursday, June 19

LEBANON HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL AND NERVOUS DISORDERS.—At Ambassadors' Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C., 4.45 p.m., 53rd annual meeting.

LONDON JEWISH HOSPITAL MEDICAL SOCIETY.—At Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, W., 8.30 p.m., annual general meeting.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—4 p.m., "*Pulmonary Hypertension*," by Dr. Paul Wood.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.—3.45 p.m., "*The Larynx*," Arnott Demonstration by Professor R. J. Last.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, Hyde Park Corner, London, S.W.—5 p.m., lecture-demonstration in psychiatry by Dr. M. A. Partridge.

●WEST LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, 1, Wolverton Gardens, Hammersmith, W.—8.30 p.m., "*The Future of Surgery in the Treatment of Intracranial Haemorrhage*," Alex Simpson Smith Memorial Lecture by Mr. M. A. Falconer.

Friday, June 20

●INSTITUTE OF DERMATOLOGY, Lisle Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.—5.30 p.m., "*Erythrodermas*," clinical demonstration by Dr. D. I. Williams.

KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL.—8 p.m., clinical meeting.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.—At University College Hospital Medical School (Lecture Theatre No. 1), University Street, Gower Street, W.C., 5 p.m., "*The Physiology of Uterine Action*," by Professor Hermogenes Alvarez and Professor Roberto Caldeyro Barcia, University of Montevideo.

●POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF LONDON, Ducane Road, W.—11.15 a.m., surgical clinical-pathological conference; 2 p.m., "*Ulcerative Colitis*," by Mr. B. N. Brooke; 4 p.m., "*The Surgical Aspects of Acquired Heart Disease*," by Mr. W. P. Cleland.

Saturday, June 21

BIOCHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At School of Biochemistry, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge, 11 a.m., 309th meeting. Scientific papers.

APPOINTMENTS

BROWN, JOHN KERR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Boroughs of Greenwich and Deptford.

BUXTON, ST. JOHN D., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., Honorary Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery to Ministry of Pensions.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.—District Medical Officer, Eastern No. 1, and Assistant County Medical Officer, T. Kenrick Hughes, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Deputy County Medical Officer, R. G. Davies, M.D., D.P.H. Assistant County Medical Officer, Averil J. Smith, M.B., Ch.B.

DURKIN, SHEILA M., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer for County Borough of Smethwick.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Assistant Anaesthetist to Peterborough Hospital Group, R. I. Dixon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A. Anaesthetic Registrar, Peterborough Memorial Hospital, A. Romagnoli, M.D. Anaesthetic Registrar, Newmarket General Hospital, A. R. Ellerker, L.M.S.S.A. Medical Registrar, United Norwich Hospitals, J. D. McCreanor, M.B., Ch.B. Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in East Suffolk and Ipswich Area, H. A. Ripman, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. Surgical Registrar, West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, Edward M. Barker, M.B., B.Ch.

FLYNN, MICHAEL P., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., County Medical Officer, Roscommon, Eire.

GAVIN, FREDERICK WILLIAM, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Richmond and Rural Districts of Croft, Richmond, and Startforth, and Assistant County Medical Officer, North Riding of Yorkshire.

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Consultant Physician, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, P. R. Duncan, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P. Consultant Dermatologist, Oldham, Ashton, and Stockport Hospital Centres, and the Manchester and Salford Hospital for Skin Diseases, J. Curry, M.D. Consultant Chest Physician, Blackburn and District Hospital Centre, R. L. Ward, M.D., M.R.C.P. Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Centre, W. P. G. Dickson, M.B., Ch.B.,

M.R.C.O.G. Assistant Radiologist, Barrow and Furness Hospital Centre, J. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., D.M.R.D.

MARTIN, VICTOR DAVID RANDALL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Alton Urban and Rural Districts, and Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Hampshire.

SIMPSON, N. R. W., M.B., B.S., D.Phys.Med., Consultant in Physical Medicine, Leicester Royal Infirmary and associated hospitals.

SOUTH-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Assistant Chest Physician (S.H.M.O.) to North Gloucestershire Clinical Area, S. Haczkiwicz, Dip.Med. Assistant Venerologist (S.H.M.O.) to Bristol, North Gloucestershire, Bath, and South Somerset Clinical Areas, E. H. Jeanes, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Consultant Anaesthetist, Bristol Clinical Area, T. R. Steen, M.B., B.Chir., D.A.

TAYLOR, SELWYN F., M.Ch., F.R.C.S., Surgeon, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.

WARD, CECILIA, M.B., B.S., House-surgeon to Gynaecological and Obstetrical Department, Victoria Hospital, Blackpool.

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.—Assistant Psychiatrist, St. Cadoc's Hospital, Caerleon, D. F. V. Johnston, M.B., B.Ch. Assistant Chest Physicians, Denbighshire and Flintshire Area, Jessie E. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., and J. F. Durrans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Medical Officer, for Geriatrics, St. David's Hospital, Cardiff, G. F. J. Thomas, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Assistant Chest Physician, Newport and East Monmouth Hospital Committee, T. L. Hilliard, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Clwyd and Deeside, E. P. Jones, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.O.G. Assistant Pathologist for West Wales, C. L. Hollick, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Registrar in General Surgery, Port Talbot and District General Hospital, H. M. Sabir, M.B., B.S. Registrar in General Surgery at Wrexham, Powys, and Mawddach, R. S. Trueman, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.Ed. Registrar in General Surgery, Bridgend Hospital, J. Magell, M.B., B.Ch. Registrar in General Surgery, St. Woolos Hospital, Newport, D. P. Viljoen, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.&H.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

Jeffs.—On May 27, 1952, at University College Hospital, London, to Doris, wife of Harry G. Jeffs, M.B., B.S., a daughter—Carolyn Jane.

Lotinga.—On May 26, 1952, at the Maternity Hospital, Leeds, to Kathleen (formerly Dunn), wife of Dr. John Lotinga, of 48, Headingley Lane, Leeds, a son.

Powell.—On May 28, 1952, at the Royal Infirmary, Cardiff, to Elizabeth Jean (formerly Courts), wife of Dr. G. D. Powell, a son.

MARRIAGES

Lamb—Greenway.—On May 22 1952, at St. Margaret's Church, Rottingdean, Sussex, John Tunstall Lamb, M.B., Ch.B., to Diana Joy Greenway.

DEATHS

Andrews.—On May 29, 1952, at Caton Green Nursing Home, Lancaster, Mary Neville Andrews, M.D., D.T.M.&H., late of China.

Ashton.—On June 3, 1952, at Bionwyfya, Machynlleth, North Wales, John Caradoc Ashton, M.B., Ch.B., aged 78.

Beggs.—On May 28, 1952, at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, Somerset, Herbert Tennison Beggs, L.R.C.P.&S.I. & L.M., of The Old Vicarage, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset, aged 61.

Boyd.—On June 4, 1952, at Dunccliffe, Dunoon, Argyll, John Campbell Boyd, M.D.

Czech.—On June 3, 1952, at the Brook General Hospital, London, S.E., Jozef Czech, M.D., aged 39.

Forster.—On May 27, 1952, Robert James Forster, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Conisbrough, Yorks.

Gill.—On June 5, 1952, at West Malling, Kent, Thomas Paterson Gill, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., D.L.O., aged 51.

Green.—On May 30, 1952, in Cornwall, Alexander Percival Green, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Hartley.—On June 5, 1952, at a London hospital, John Armstrong Hartley, M.D., late of Ticehurst House, Ticehurst, Sussex.

Kastelian.—On June 5, 1952, Solomon Geshel Kastelianski Kastelian, M.D., of Oslo Court, London, N.W.

Mackenzie.—On May 20, 1952, at Aberdeen, Mary Meta Mackenzie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., of 41, Rubislaw Den South, Aberdeen.

Mair.—On June 5, 1952, at Audsley, Swanland, East Yorks, Alexander Middleton Mair, M.B., F.R.C.S., aged 40.

Palser.—On June 1, 1952, John Edwin Ford Palser, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Southsea, Hants.

Pennefather.—On May 28, 1952, at Byron House, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex, Claud Maxwell Pennefather, M.D., aged 75.

Pretty.—On May 30, 1952, at 116, Rockingham Road, Kettering, Northants, Harold Cooper Pretty, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., aged 76.

Rankin.—On May 19, 1952, at his home, The Elms, Bottesford, Nottingham, James Louis Rankin, M.B., Ch.B.

Ross.—On June 4, 1952, at 26, Dalhousie Terrace, Edinburgh, Frank Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M.

Ross-Somer.—On May 29, 1952, Margaret Georgina Ross-Somer, M.B., Ch.B., of 14 Blyth Road, Bromley, Kent.

Stock.—On May 30, 1952, at "Dorrington," Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent, William Stuart Vernon Stock, M.B., F.R.C.S., formerly of Clifton, Bristol, aged 79.

Walmsley.—On May 28, 1952, at 3, Deepdene Vale, Dorking Surrey, Stephen Elliott Walmsley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., late of Birmingham.

Warner.—On May 24, 1952, Allan Warner, M.D., D.P.H., of The Cottage, Desford, near Leicester, aged 81.

Willes.—On June 2, 1952, at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C., Charles FitzGerald Willes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander, R.N., retired, of Abbots Leigh, near Bristol.

Woodhouse.—On May 29, 1952, at Old Ford House, Blandford St. Mary, Dorset, Francis Decimus Woodhouse, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., aged 88.

Any Questions ?

Correspondents should give their names and addresses (not for publication) and include all relevant details in their questions, which should be typed. We publish here a selection of those questions and answers which seem to be of general interest.

Prognosis of Perthes's Disease

Q.—What is the prognosis for untreated Perthes's disease in later life? Are painful episodes likely to become more frequent and severe? Is any treatment worth considering for a mother of several children, who must lead an active life?

A.—The prognosis for untreated Perthes's disease depends upon the degree to which the head of the femur has become distorted during the stage of softening of the bone. In many cases in which no treatment has been given, and weight has been borne on the limb during the stage of softening, the deformity of the femoral head is serious. In consequence, degenerative osteoarthritis is likely to come on gradually at an unpredictable age, often between 30 and 40. The pain associated with such developing arthritis is likely to be slight and intermittent at first, but later to become more frequent and severe, and it is likely to be made worse by much walking on the limb. While disablement is only moderate, active treatment may not be necessary, and it may be sufficient to advise the patient to lead a less active life. If the disability is more severe, but not bad enough to justify operative treatment, conservative treatment as for osteoarthritis arising from other causes is worth trying: the methods available include various forms of physiotherapy and, according to some authorities, injections of local analgesic or certain acid solutions into the joint, or x-ray therapy.

If the disablement becomes severe, so that walking is difficult and very painful, and especially if the pain interferes with sleep, operative treatment should be considered. The main methods available include arthrodesis of the joint, or one of the methods of arthroplasty. The Judet acrylic prosthesis falls into this latter category. The short-term results of this method have been good in a high proportion of cases, but the long-term results are still uncertain, and some authorities consider that cup arthroplasty, in its original or in a modified form, is preferable in relatively young patients.

Gamma Rays and Rheumatism

Q.—Claims have been made that gamma rays applied locally to the surface of the body are effective in treating rheumatic conditions. Is there any scientific evidence to support these claims?

A.—It is assumed that the rheumatic conditions to which the question refers include the various forms of chronic arthritis. Radiotherapy is often used in the treatment of osteoarthritis, although the response to treatment is variable and difficult to assess, but this form of treatment is not considered to be of any value in rheumatoid arthritis or the non-articular manifestations of rheumatic disease. Radiotherapy is the accepted form of treatment for ankylosing spondylitis. The aim of treatment in those forms of arthritis which fall within the scope of radiotherapy is the delivery of an adequate dose of ionizing radiation to the affected joint. External irradiation used for this purpose must therefore have sufficient penetration to deliver an appreciable dose to the joint without damaging the intervening skin and subcutaneous tissues. This can be achieved by using high-voltage x rays generated at approximately 200 kV. Any attempt to reproduce this effect by the substitution of gamma rays for x rays would demand